

California and Western Medicine

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EDITORIALS

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION

Usual Flood of Proposed New Laws Appears.—The first portion of the forty-eighth session of the California legislature came to an end on the eighteenth day of January. The legislature now takes a thirty-day recess. Some 1859 new bills were introduced in the two brief weeks of the preliminary session. Of these a goodly number directly or indirectly concern public health matters in which organized medicine should be interested.

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Public Health Interests Should Be Alert.—The appearance of these many public health measures on the docket files of the legislature indicates that they are sponsored by persons or interests whom it may be assumed believe, whether rightly or wrongly, that such additional legislative enactments will enhance or bring benefits to either themselves or the people at large. But no matter what may have been the motives which led to the introduction of these bills, it is the moral obligation of the medical profession to study all such proposed public health legislation, so that undesirable measures may be either modified or eliminated.

The general officers and legislative committees of the state association and its component county societies have a special responsibility and should be alert to all such proposed legislation, in order

that the best interests of the citizens of the state and of the medical profession may be properly safeguarded.

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The Vocational Standards Bill.—This measure was discussed in the January issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (pages 50 and 65) and was taken up in further detail at the meeting of the Council of the California Medical Association, held in San Francisco on January 12. Efforts are being made to make the provisions affecting the professions of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy as acceptable as possible. For instance, the full text of the bill, a digest of which was printed in the December issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (page 414) has been modified so that the three professions are now grouped in Division 1 of the proposed department, with supervisory conditions which are different from those which will apply to vocations and trades.

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How the Legislative Session Is Divided.—Practically all new bills must be filed by assemblymen and senators during the January meetings. Then follows a recess of one month, the legislature again convening to continue in session until adjournment. This will make somewhat possible during February a study of all new legislation. A summary may be printed in the March issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

During the recess period the officers and members of component county societies should see to it that proper contacts are made with their local senators and assemblymen, in order to assure better coöperative effort and support should occasion later on require. Every component county society should either have a separate legislative committee, or the officers as an executive committee should act in such capacity.

The chairman of the Legislative Committee of the California Medical Association is Dr. Harlan Shoemaker. Information on medical matters deemed of interest to the State Committee should be sent to him. Doctor Shoemaker's address is 1014 Wilshire Medical Building, 1930 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles.

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Laws Relating to the Board of Medical Examiners.—The Vocational Standards statute could seriously influence the activities of the California Board of Medical Examiners, as was pointed out in the January issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. In addition to that measure, which was submitted by the Governor's office, a number of other bills have been introduced. These medical board bills would bring into being, if possible, amendments which would cover some of the items discussed at a recent conference of board members and medical school representatives, and which were listed in the November, 1928 issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (page 344). The provision for a fifth year of work, applicable to graduates after July 1, 1929, is covered in Senate Bill 214 (lines 21-28 of first page of the bill). This and other proposed